CLAIMS

1. An installation in which an operation of crosslinking a coating, such as an ink or varnish coating, is carried out by ultraviolet radiation or by an electron beam, in the presence of a gas mixture with a controlled residual oxygen content, the installation comprising a chamber having one or more UV lamps or a source of accelerated electrons, necessary for carrying out the crosslinking operation, which is characterized in that it includes an entry device adjacent the chamber and comprising at least the following three components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a labyrinth system, means for injecting an inert gas forming a gas knife, and a channel.

2. The installation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it includes an exit device adjacent the chamber and consisting of at least the following three components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a channel ("output channel"), means for injecting an inert gas forming a gas knife, and a means for creating a pressure drop, such as a smooth profile, the distance between the smooth profile and the surface of the coating being less than the height of said channel.

3. The installation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it includes an exit device adjacent the chamber and consisting of at least the following three components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a channel, means for injecting an inert gas forming a gas knife, and a labyrinth system.

4. The installation as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said entry

device includes at least the following five components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a channel, a 1st gas injection slot, a labyrinth, a 2nd gas injection slot, followed by a second channel.

5. The installation as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said means for injecting inert gas forming a gas knife comprise a plane-walled gas injection slot emerging inside the entry or exit device in question.

6. The installation as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the length/height ratio of at least one of said channels is at least 3, preferably at least 6.